

**October
1997**

Fernald Community Involvement Team

Background

The Fernald Community Involvement Team (FCIT) is an employee-driven service program designed to enable Fernald employees freedom in choosing volunteer opportunities that respond to their communities' needs. Established in July 1996, the FCIT is a volunteer task force composed of Fernald employees, their family members and friends who are active in local social service. The group is governed by an employee steering committee that selects projects and opportunities. More than 250 FEMP employee volunteers are members of the FCIT. In August 1997, the Cincinnati Association of Volunteer Administrators honored the FCIT as the "Outstanding Corporate Volunteer Program for 1997."



FCIT members Don Goetz and Norma Creek dig a hole for the planting of a tree during an Adopt-A-Park effort with Miami Whitewater Park Soccer Complex, located outside Miamitown on State Route 128 (6573-41).



Nominated by the Ross Area Merchants Association, the Cincinnati Association of Volunteer Administrators honored the FCIT as the "Outstanding Corporate Volunteer Program for 1997" (6670-17).

Volunteers

Participation in FCIT projects is each individual's decision. Volunteering is not required of Fernald employees. The FCIT is responsible for raising all funds required to complete its projects. Materials and equipment needed for FCIT projects may be donated by local merchants, restaurants, and lumber companies.

FCIT Projects

Potential community services projects are presented to the FCIT Steering Committee, which then votes on whether to support the project. FCIT projects generally fall into one of three categories:

- *fund-raiser projects*—include events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, celebrity golf tournaments and United Way support;
- *people-oriented projects*—provide an opportunity to work directly with people on projects including Community Care Day, Education Outreach, DOE Greater Cincinnati Regional Science Bowl, food drives and Fernald's Holiday Wish Tree; and
- *construction/renovation projects*—projects may include Habitat for Humanity, Colerain Mega Land, Adopt-a-Park and planting flowers at the local schools.



Opportunities

FCIT projects provide members a wide variety of projects which they complete on their own time, away from the work-place. The FCIT has supported such projects as Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Highway, Hoxworth Blood Drive, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ross Area Merchants Silver Queen Festival and local flood relief efforts. The FCIT has worked with various organizations, including: the Ronald McDonald House, Radio Reading Services, Alzheimer's Association, American Diabetes Association, March of Dimes, Cincinnati Public Schools, are just some examples of the types of causes the FCIT has supported.



FCIT member Julie Doering volunteered some time in July to serve roasted corn on the cob at the Ross Area Merchants Association's Silver Queen Festival (6643-22).

For More Information...

For more information about the FCIT, please contact Sherry Webb, 513-648-4030, or visit the "Community Service/FCIT Home Page" section of Fernald's Web site (<http://www.fernald.gov>).